GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3454
ANSWERED ON:07.09.2007
LICENCES TO OPIUM GROWERS
Rawat Shri Kamla Prasad

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has cancelled the licences of some opium growers in Barabanki district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any irregularity has come to the notice of the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether opium growers have protested or given representation against such cancellation;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government proposes for providing licences again to such opium growers; and

(g) if so, the time by which the licences are likely to be provided to them?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM)

(a) Yes, sir.

(b) & (c) No, sir.

(d) Yes, sir.

(e) During the crop year 2006-07, 5 appeals were received from the poppy cultivators of Barabanki District against cancellation of licences. In addition to these statutory appeals under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Rules, 1985, 31 general representations were received from farmers, relating to Barabanki District. Each representation was examined by the District Opium Officer, and disposed of as per provisions of General Conditions for Licensing.

(f) Licences will be issued to cultivators who are eligible as per the General Conditions for Licensing.

(g) Eligible cultivators will be issued licences before the sowing season is completed.